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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: FR, PGOV, SHUM (BARBIE, KLAUS)
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR BARBIE TRIAL INCH FORWARD
REF: A) LYON 0366, B) LYON 0419

1. SUMMARY : DECISIONS MADE THIS PAST WEEK BY THE FRENCH GRAND JURY IN LYON PREPARING FOR THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE HAVE FINALLY NARROWED AND DEFINED THE CHARGES HE WILL FACE WHEN HIS TRIAL BEGINS IN A FEW MONTHS TIME. END SUMMARY.
2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIAL OF KLAUS BARBIE HAVE FOLLOWED A SLOW AND WINDING PATH SINCE LAST AUGUST, WHEN INVESTIGATING JUDGE, CHRISTIAN RISS, LIMITED THE SCOPE OF THE CHARGES THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BRING AGAINST BARBIE TO CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. THE RESULT OF HIS DECISION CAUSED A NUMBER OF PARTIES REPRESENTING JEWISH GROUPS AND WAR VETERANS TO LODGE PROTESTS OVER HIS OMISSION OF SPECIFIC CHARGES THEY BELIEVED WOULD BE DAMNING TO BARBIE, CONCLUSIVELY MARK HIS CRIMES FOR HISTORY, AND PUT A FINAL END TO HIS YEARS OF FREEDOM.
3. THE LYON GRAND JURY REVIEWED THE PROTESTS AND APPEALS MADE BY THE VARIOUS GROUPS, AND SIDED WITH THE ORIGINAL FINDINGS OF JUDGE RISS THAT LIMIT THE TRIAL TO THREE MAJOR POINTS : 1) BARBIE'S ROLE IN THE DEPORTATION OF THE LYON BASED LUNION GENERALE DES JUIFS

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DE FRANCE, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 9 FEBRUARY 1943. 2) BARBIE'S ROLE IN ORGANIZING THE LAST DEPORTATION OF LYON AREA RESIDENTS ON 11 AUGUST 1944, AND 3) BARBIE'S ROLE IN THE DEPORTATION OF THE JEWISH CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE OF IZIEU ON 6 APRIL 1944. RISS BASED HIS DECISIONS ON THE FACT THAT BARBIE HAD ALREADY BEEN TRIED AND CONVICTED OF WAR CRIMES IN ABSENTIA IN 1947 AND 1954 BY FRENCH TRIBUNALS. HIS CRIMES AGAINST THE FRENCH RESISTANCE, RISS JUDGED TO BE CRIMES OF WAR, AS THE GESTAPO VIEWED THE RESISTERS AS COMBATTANTS, UNLIKE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE VICTIMIZED AS A RESULT OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

4. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING THE JEWISH GROUPS AND RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS WILL TAKE THEIR APPEALS FURTHER, TO THE COUR DE CASSATION (SUPREME COURT) IN PARIS. THAT STEP WOULD AGAIN DELAY THE START OF THE TRIAL, PERHAPS PUSHING THE OPENING BEYOND THE JANUARY 1986 DATE CURRENTLY DISCUSSED. THOUGH IT IS KNOWN THAT BARBIE HAS NOT BEEN IN GOOD HEALTH, NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE IN THE FRENCH PRESS OF BARBIE FACING ANY LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS AS WAS RECENTLY NOTED IN U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.

5. FINALLY, THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO WRESTLE WITH SUCH BASIC PROBLEMS AS VENUE AND SECURITY, WHILE THE ARMY OF JOURNALISTS PLANNING TO COVER THE TRIAL WEAR OUT HOTEL AND RESTAURANT RESERVATION CLERKS AS THEY ARE OBLIGED TO MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR PLANS ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS. POST WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP ADDRESSEES INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

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